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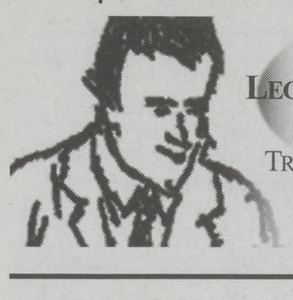

OPINION PG. 2
LEGALIZE MARIJUANA?
WHY DO WE BAN TREATMENT THAT COULD EASE SUFFERING?

VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
THE GOLDEN YEARS
A 90-YEAR-OLD VALLEY COLLEGE STUDENT CELEBRATES HER BIRTHDAY ON CAMPUS.

SPORTS PG. 6
LADY MONARCHS FALL
SANTA MONICA CORSAIRS LEAVE LADY MONARCHS IN A FOG, BEATING THEM 5-0.

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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 8 | NOVEMBER 16, 2005 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

Survey Raises Eyebrows

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
ONLINE EDITOR

Over the past couple weeks instructors have been asking students to fill out a 41-question Students Rights Survey during class about their political and religious views, including whether students think their instructors' views are pushed on them.

Suzanne Engler and Rebecca Stein, the anthropology instructors who created the survey, declined to comment on why the survey is being conducted despite the April rejection of The Academic (or Student) Bill of Rights, the legislation that the instructors cite in their cover letter to the survey.

However, congress is considering similar legislature that would affect the Higher Education Act and is expected to soon pass.

Stein and Engler created the Valley survey because "We noticed that there is a lack of scientific research on student experiences and attitudes on this issue," according to their letter included with the surveys.

The stated purpose of The Academic (or Student) Bill of Rights, written by Senator Bill Morrow, is to require colleges and universities to maintain political pluralism and diversity and to ensure that "faculty members will not use their courses or their position for the purpose of political, ideological, religious or anti-religious indoctrination."

"I think what is most troubling to me is that the [Education] Code would be modified and would include language that makes reference to a 'student immaturity,'" said Joanne Waddell, chapter president of Valley College's Faculty Guild. "If I were a student I would be insulted by the language. As an instructor I am insulted that [Morrow] thinks our students are so easily swayed."

Valley student Theresa

see *'Survey'* page 3

DEAN'S RECEPTION

MARIA LOW / VALLEY STAR

HATS OFF - Valley College President Dr. Tyree Wieder sings the praises of Associated Student Union President Nelli Martirosyan, who Wieder calls "a good student and hard worker." Martirosyan was one of the honorees at the Dean's Reception, Nov. 10, that rewarded students who earned a 3.5 GPA or higher in the spring 2005 semester. More than 1,500 students were honored at the reception, hosted by the ASU in conjunction with Tau Alpha Epsilon and the Office of Student Services.

FBI Questions Valley Student on Campus

■ Photo student Bay'an Hedayaty's photographs cause a terror investigation.

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
STAFF WRITER

It was around 10 p.m. in late September at a frigid Hollywood and Highland subway station where Bay'an Hedayaty thought he would fulfill a photography class assignment by taking pictures of a metro car thundering by.

He never thought he would be detained for an hour by deputies from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and later questioned by FBI agents for taking pictures that didn't even come out properly.

"I am part Middle Eastern, but I never knew I looked like a terrorist," said the 30-year-old Valley College student. "I was taking pictures and noticed people were running away from me. I turned around and eight cops had me surrounded like a pack of wolves."

He said he calmly put his arms out to show he was unarmed and then a deputy slammed him against the wall and demanded, "Are you a terrorist?"

"It was the most intense experience of my life," said Hedayaty. "I have never been arrested or in any trouble with the law."

The deputies searched his backpack and made a fuss over a box cutter in his bag, he said. In a heated discussion, Hedayaty explained that he uses it to open parcels on movie sets.

The deputies' suspicions grew stronger when they saw Hedayaty was holding a framed painting, a gift he had received for his 30th birthday, that depicted several buildings with a plane flying over them, reminiscent of the 9/11 attacks.

An official took his ID and disappeared into an upstairs office at the subway station. Hedayaty was forced to sit on the floor, cross-legged, with his arms behind his back for an hour until the officer returned.

When the deputy returned he told Hedayaty, "You're in our file now, next time think twice about what you do." Confused and enraged, he was let go.

"I know they were doing their job," said Hedayaty. "The other officers were all right. But I'll never forgive the sheriff that slammed me against the wall. He is a wanker."

Hedayaty broke no laws. He said he checked first to see if there were any signs that prohibited photography.

Alicia Wagner Calzda, president of the National Press Photographers Association, released the memorandum noting that, "No specific post-September 11 federal law grants the government any additional rights to restrict photography."

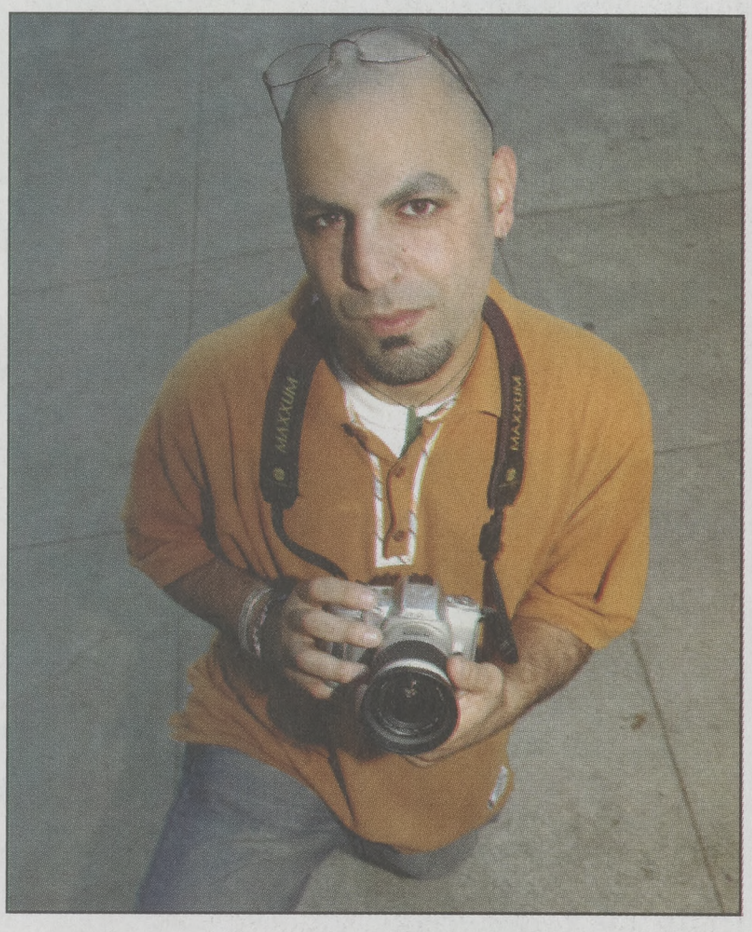
"Photography is not normally prohibited," said MTA spokesperson Rick Jager, "But the sheriff's will detain suspicious persons."

"Anyone taking pictures of buses, trains, or subways would be questioned by the law enforcements now days," said FBI Special Agent Norma Loza, "[It] has nothing to do with the race, or religion of a person; it's a matter of safety."

Two weeks later, while working at the Lions Den in Valley College, Hedayaty received an unidentified call on his cell phone. "I don't usually answer unknown numbers." Hedayaty said, "But I answered incase it was my parents calling from New Zealand."

The call was Special Agent Jared Murphey, to request a meeting with Hedayaty. Hedayaty told the agent he worked every day at Valley and finding time for the meeting would be difficult. Agent Murphey agreed to meet him at school outside the Lions Den.

"They had a file on me as thick as a 70-page notebook," Hedayaty said. "I don't know where they got all that, but they had the picture from my ID on it."



MEL SALDANA / VALLEY STAR

NO PICTURES PLEASE - Valley student Bay'an Hedayaty was detained and questioned for photographing in the Hollywood/Highland Metroline station.

Students Question LAVC Counselors' Competence

■ The Valley College counseling department is under fire from the students its here to help.

BY EDUARDO MORAN
STAFF WRITER

The advice of the counseling department has many Valley College students questioning whether Valley counselors have students' best interests in mind. Some students claim that counselors have misled them.

"The counselor I talked to sounded like a tape recorder," said 21-year-old sociology major Daisy Hernández. "I didn't understand what he told me and when I asked him about it, he told me the same thing over again with a tone that made me feel dumb."

Some biological science majors say that they have been misled by inaccurate information received from counselors. According to life science majors, counselors tell them to follow the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum, a set of UC and CSU transferable courses, and to take Biology 3. However, none of the nine University of California campuses require Biology 3 and only three California State University campuses require it as part of the biology major.

"I find that hard to believe," said Joyce Romero, a counselor at Valley. "Some of the counselors have been here for twenty years or more. I have never heard any counselors say that to students."

Counselors say that many students are undecided in their majors, which makes it harder to guide them. Students that have decided on a major and know which university they want to transfer to have better experiences because counselors can tell them which classes they need. Undecided students are usually told to take general education classes and by the time they choose a major, they've taken unnecessary classes and then blame the counselors.

Counselors, who see from 50 to 75 students a day, say that students could do more to make the most of their counseling experience. Counselors are a key component in helping students transfer to four-year colleges or universities. By scheduling appointments and being prepared with questions, students can help counselors know what they need.

"As a student, you've got to come prepared," said Raul Bautista, a 20-year-old administration of justice major. "Don't come in thinking [the counselors] will do everything. You've got to come with a path in mind and they'll guide you through it."

Counselor Reggie Reed says that students who drop into the counseling offices instead of making a formal appointment are limited to five to six minutes with a counselor, but if they schedule an appointment, they can meet with a counselor for 30 minutes.

VALLEY PEOPLE

From Bosnia to Valley: Army Vet Shifts Focus

NINA BRUCKNER / VALLEY STAR

G.I. JULIE - Army veteran Julie "Jewels" Heuer, Valley student and aspiring screenwriter, moves forward after a stint in the service.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

Valley College student Julie Heuer grew up watching John Wayne films and heroes in war movies, hoping to one day be in their shoes.

"I always wanted to be a spy and do covert things," Heuer said, so she joined the Army about two weeks out of high school in 1998.

Heuer is one of many veterans at Valley pursuing various careers. The 25-year-old Sacramento native served four years in the Army before coming to Valley and settling in as a cinema major.

In the Army, she took on a job as an intelligence analyst. Six months later she was excited to be deployed to Korea, but it didn't turn out as she planned.

"I always wanted to be covert and I ended up doing a lot of deskwork," Heuer said. "I want-

see *'Vet'* page 3

WE'RE NOT PSYCHIC

So tell us what's on your mind! Contact The Valley Star at thevalleystar@yahoo.com, drop by the newsroom at BJ114 or call us at (818) 947-2576. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited for publication.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES. THIS WEEK:
SHOULD CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS HAVE ACCESS TO MEDICINAL MARIJUANA?

■ **Make your voice heard! Participate in the online poll at *www.lavalleystar.com***

"High" Level of Tolerance is Needed

■ Terminally ill patients shouldn't be denied pain relief.

BY WILL REYES
STAFF WRITER

People with terminal and debilitating diseases face more than just the pain from their conditions. The push for a ban on medicinal marijuana, coupled with the negative connotations associated with its use, cause ill people in many states to suffer unnecessary hardships.

Imagine a hard working, responsible adult living with a painful disease like cancer or multiple sclerosis being told by the government that access to the medicine that helps them cope with their ailment is being denied.

It doesn't seem like the American way.

Nevertheless, it's the reality being pushed forward by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the California Narcotics Officers' Association and others who refuse to acknowledge the benefits of medicinal marijuana.

The opposition cites the risks of addiction and expresses concern about side effects like impaired motor coordination and concentration. Many legal prescription drugs are far more addictive and have lethal side effects but remain available. Is it right to refuse a patient a valid medicine just because it might lead to addiction? I guess we're going to have to outlaw big money prescription drugs.

Shouldn't alcohol, caffeine and nicotine also be banned under those criteria? They're all known to be addictive. Someone warn Starbucks about the wrath of the DEA.

This is not about advocating that teens be allowed to smoke after school. It is about people who are suffering considerable pain from a terminal illness and wanting relief, some with little time to live

The American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Public Health Association and other medical organizations support marijuana use under the supervision of a qualified physician.

Talk show host Montel Williams suffers from multiple sclerosis and is an advocate of medicinal marijuana use. Williams said he has used prescription drugs such as Vicodin, Percocet and OxyContin, yet has only found relief through marijuana.

"[It] works for some of us who have neurological pain," he said in an interview with Deborah Norville. "Doctors in several states have prescribed it for me."

Williams is able to remain productive, yet could face jail time.

California is one of 11 states that have passed laws permitting marijuana use by patients with a doctor's approval, but a recent United States Supreme Court ruling states that doctors can be blocked from prescribing it and that federal anti-drug laws supercede state laws on the subject, leaving doctors open to prosecution.

The ruling was supported by the DEA, which has been staging raids since 2001 and arresting patients with conditions ranging from chronic back pain to brain cancer.

That's right, critically ill patients are being arrested.

It's time for us to stop these injustices and find some sympathy.

Thousands of ill Americans deserve that right.

Sending the Wrong Smoke Signals

■ Medicinal marijuana causes more harm than good.

BY KRISTEN BECKER
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

When does medicine become poison?

Even if it does not necessarily cure the illness, medicine gives a better quality of life to someone who is chronically ill.

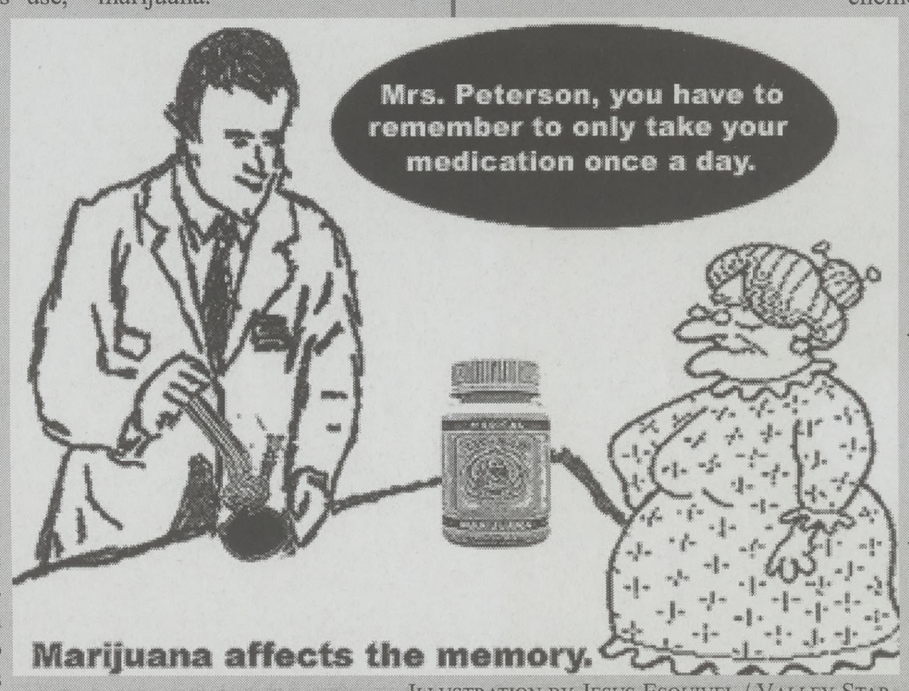


ILLUSTRATION BY JESUS ESQUIVEL / VALLEY STAR

The risks associated with smoking marijuana outweigh the possible medical benefits.

The Drug Enforcement Administration reported that a person who smokes "five joints a week may be taking in as many cancer-causing chemicals as someone who smokes a full pack of cigarettes every day."

It is strange that a society which condemns smoking so vehemently should be so eager to allow seriously ill people to smoke a drug known to cause serious health defects.

Smoking a marijuana cigarette every other day for a year caused the white blood count to be 39 percent lower than normal according to a study done by Columbia University.

White blood cells are an integral part of the human immune system. They protect us from viruses and other foreign bodies that may cause diseases.

If marijuana is prescribed to critically ill people, including AIDS patients, it would harm an immune system that is already compromised. It would leave the patient at even greater risk for serious illnesses.

The legalization of medical marijuana is unnecessary. The Food and Drug Administration has approved medicines that are made of THC, the chemical that studies have found to relieve nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy and assists with loss of appetite in AIDS patients.

It is available in a pill called Marinol. This is a much safer way to receive the benefits of marijuana without having to suffer the consequences of smoking the drug.

Smoking marijuana is harmful to a person's health. Sandra Bennett, the director of the Northwest Center for Health and Safety, said that only 66 of the 483 chemicals found in marijuana have a medicinal value, whereas the rest of the chemicals present could be detrimental to a patient's health. Bennett said that smoking marijuana will not necessarily give the person the same benefits taking the medication would.

"Smoking marijuana is clearly harmful, especially in people with chronic conditions, and is not an ideal drug delivery system," according to a 1999 Institute of Medicine report.

"Plants are of uncertain composition, which renders their effects equally uncertain, so they constitute an undesirable medication."

Marijuana is an addictive drug.

In 1999, more than 200,000 Americans received substance abuse treatment for marijuana abuse and dependence according to the DEA.

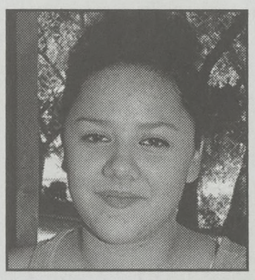
If a doctor prescribes marijuana to their patient, the patient self-medicates so there is no way to regulate what happens once a doctor prescribes the drug.

Isn't the point of medicine to prolong life, not to cut it short? Although marijuana may have certain medicinal properties, it is not an appropriate substance to be prescribed to patients.

Campus View

Should medicinal marijuana be legalized?

PHOTOS BY MELANIE SALDAÑA



"Marijuana is not worse than any other substance like alchol or cigarettes. If it became legalized it might not be as much fun for regular users because it's not illicit. Sick people should always be able to get it without getting in trouble with the law."

-Amanda Jovel
Undecided Major

"Yes, I do think that it should be legalized. Prescription drugs are much worse. The only down side might be that kids might have better access to it, but other than that, it should be legal for those who need it."

-Liav Babila
Architecture Major

"I think it should be legalized. I don't think it's such a big deal. They are already in so much pain. It could be abused, but it is sold and abused anyway."

-Jackie Alaniz
Undecided Major

"Marijuana is a natural pain reliever and should be accessible. A problem to legalization could be abuse, but like all things moderation is key."

-Stephanie Shaw
Undecided Major

Scare Tactics Can Make You Sick

■ Get a grip on the reality of avian flu.

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

It's inescapable. It's in newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

It would cost billions to promote any other product to such an extent. They're selling fear, and publicity comes relatively cheap for the avian flu virus.

It is endemic among wild birds. It lives in their intestines and usually causes them no harm. But every so often, outbreaks occur in populations of domestic birds with less hardy immune systems, typically livestock like ducks and chickens.

The highly contagious virus spreads quickly within flocks, killing more than 50 percent of those infected. When this happens, great sacrifices are made to avoid the possibility of spreading the disease to humans.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, during a Southeast Asian outbreak of avian flu in late 2003 to early 2004, approximately 100 million birds died from the disease or were intentionally destroyed.

Though cases of human infection have been documented in the recent past, the intense hype over a worldwide epidemic is brand new.

This year "the experts" are using the media to present information which may make the public believe that an epidemic is right around the corner: "It's not a matter of 'if' but a matter of 'when,'" the experts like to say; "... just like the pandemic of 1918," the media willingly reports.

More than 25 million people died worldwide (up to 675,000 in the United States) in 1918 and 1919 as a result of rapid infection by a virus similar to today's bird flu.

In its current state, the deadly variety of the avian influenza virus, hemagglutinin type 5, neuraminidase type 1, better known as the H5N1 strain, is infrequently transmitted from bird to human.

If another rare occurrence takes place, the virus mutating into a form that can be transmitted from person to person, it is possible that thousands of people could become infected, and certainly many would die.

But this is not 1918. Scientists have a much greater understanding of how viruses operate and how diseases spread than they did 87 years ago. We know what measures to take to protect ourselves, partially because of the lessons learned from past outbreaks.

Additionally, the previous cases of humans infected with the lethal H5N1 strain didn't cause nearly as much hysteria. In 1997, 18 people in Hong Kong were confirmed to be infected with avian flu, six of whom died as a result. Hong Kong, an island one-third the size of Rhode Island with twice the population of Los Angeles suffered only six deaths.

Since 2003, the World Health Organization has confirmed 125 cases of humans infected with H5N1, 64 having died.

These deaths occurred in Southeast Asia; the most densely populated area on earth with 1 billion people to the west in India and 1 billion to the north in China. Ideally, those 64 deaths are 64 too many.

Realistically, they are hardly cause for hysteria and hype.

The public is better served by spreading useful information about the current situation and similar episodes in the past instead of advertising for those who benefit from a panicked population.

A healthy amount of alarm is appropriate given the number of people at risk.

But the numbers simply do not support the madness propagated by the mainstream media.

Left, Right or Other?

■ Escaping the trap of one-dimensional politics.

BY BRIAN DEAN
STAFF WRITER

Many people find politics either too boring or too frustrating to tolerate in large doses.

One possible cause for this estrangement is the linear nature of the established political spectrum.

The left-versus-right system was inadequate to begin with. Political thought throughout history has never been so narrow as to be contained by such simplicity.

The left side of the aisle is reserved for liberal concerns. Communism and socialism fall into this category; systems in which private property is limited or abolished in favor of ownership by government, which provides employment and a level of general support for its citizens. In practice, communist governments have sought to exert control over personal freedoms.

The right side of the aisle is earmarked for conservative concepts. However, the right encompasses philosophies ranging from fascism, a system of strict government control over personal life and economic activity, and libertarianism - the exact opposite.

This contradiction presents an obvious problem. To make matters worse, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" have been twisted and given new meaning.. Even the commonly used "neoconservative" is applied with complete disregard to it's actual definition.

The solution: the world's smallest political quiz.

Created by the Advocates for Self Government, a self-labeled "non-profit, non-partisan libertarian educational organization," this quiz features two sets of five questions. Each question tests the participant's idea of how much government is necessary. The first set deals with personal adult issues, such as sex and drug use. The second set examines economic problems such as welfare, taxes and government spending.

The results give a much clearer idea of where people stand as political thinkers than the old system.

Test-takers may be surprised to discover their self-applied label doesn't match their actual beliefs.

In a diamond-shaped grid, there are five general categories instead of two. "Libertarians" tend toward limited government in both personal and economic activity, whereas "statists" are the opposite. "Liberals" prefer greater personal freedom with government control over economics, and "conservatives" are the opposite. "Centrists" hold the middle ground, preferring a little of each, depending on the situation.

This test challenges popularly held misconceptions of political identity. It relieves the disorder and hostility caused when labels are applied simply by supporting or opposing the current administration.

People who clearly understand their own political leanings will elect leaders who share their beliefs. The entire political landscape could change for the better by taking one simple test.

The world's smallest political quiz can be found at www.theadvocates.org/quiz.html

Students' Opinions Not Easily Swayed

'Survey'

continued from page 1

Mariscal agrees with Waddell, saying, "We're adults now, we believe what we want to believe."

Political science instructor Anthony O'Regan thinks that it is a good idea to balance what instructors teach.

"I can't think of any sector of American life that has less diversity than academia," O'Regan said. "[But] I'm not sure that this specific legislation is a good idea."

Staff writers Jesus Esquivel and Marc Howard contributed to this story.

Vet Reflects on Her Time in the Service

'Vet'

continued from page 1

ed to be a soldier, not work in an office."

For a year she worked in updating security clearances and acting as a liaison between the states and the soldiers,

After a brief stop in Georgia, her wish to be in more action was granted: she was transferred to Bosnia. There she briefed air brigades before missions, and profiled members of the black market.

The assignment was exciting and risky, in part because of the land itself. "Bosnia is like one big land mine," said E4 Spc. Ann Griffin, Heuer's roommate at the time.

Heuer once saw a cow walk over a mine and explode. "All the people came out and took the meat off the body," Heuer said. Despite the risks, she made the best of the situation.

"She's smart and cared about what she did," said E4 Spc. Gary Griffin, Ann's husband, and an intelligence analyst Heuer supervised in Bosnia. "She made it very comfortable with her relaxed attitude, which is a good thing in the military."

Upon completing her one-year deployment in Bosnia, she returned to Georgia and finished her service maintaining equipment, vehicles and going out on field duty training.

Her unit was in the midst of training on Sep. 11, 2001, when they heard about the attacks on the radio. "After [that] we all wanted to go to Afghanistan," Heuer said. "That was our motivation, but when they told us that we would go to Iraq, it changed to money."

Heuer, who finished her commitment to the Army in 2002, watched as her former unit was deployed to Iraq in 2003, something she says perplexed many of her friends, who expected to be deployed in Afghanistan.

"A lot of people knew they didn't really have a choice," Heuer said. "So they just accepted it and looked forward to the good money of the hazard pay."

Now that she's finished her duty, she stresses the importance of being careful in deciding to join the military, even though she enjoyed the experience.

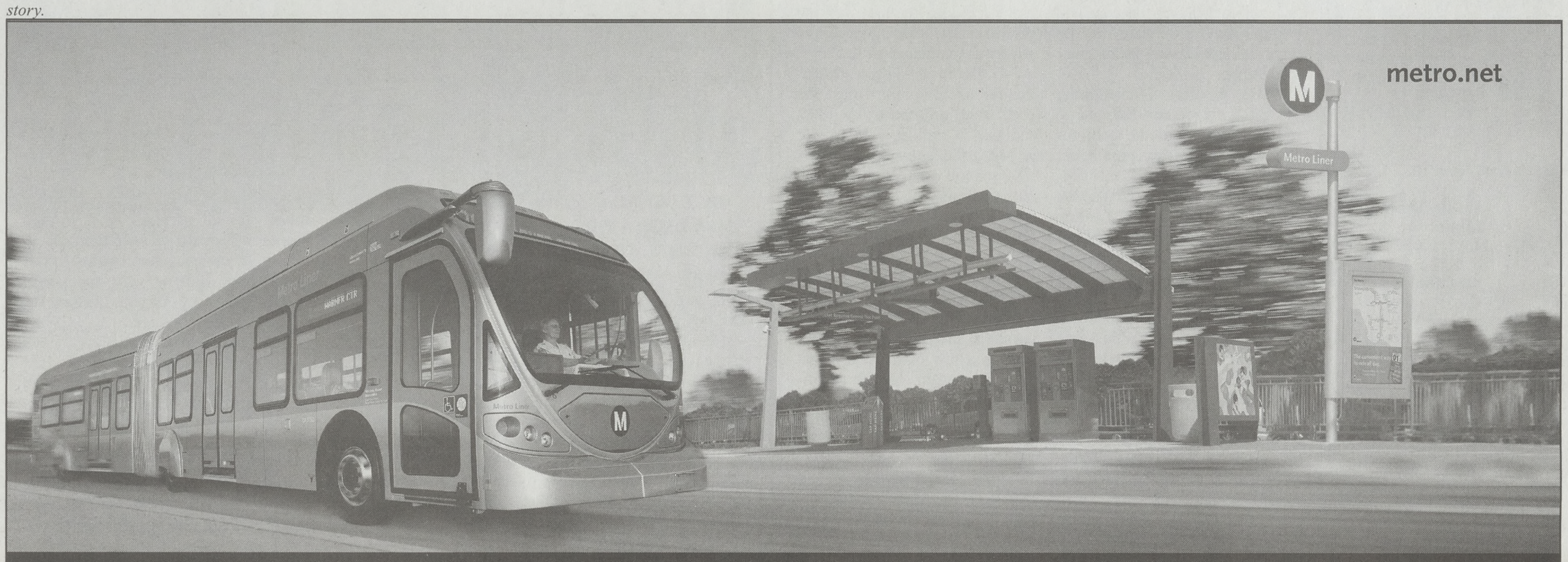
"I think its great to do something for your country, because we're lucky to be Americans," Heuer said. "But people need to really evaluate their political views… or else they can be sent to fight a war they don't believe in."

She's currently in her second year at Valley, with hopes of a career as a screenwriter, and splits her time between a full-time academic schedule, and jobs as a yoga instructor and massage therapist.

"Julie is like most veterans," said Zach Moss, the president of the Veteran's Club at Valley. "She's busy with so much, so [the club] is happy to be able to help in whatever we can."

Looking back on the experience, she praises the military's impact and is pleased with the benefits and public gratitude.

"The military really built a sense of determination and independence in me," Heuer said. "The G.I. Bill helps me get by in school, and it's awesome that people take a day to respect veterans. Even if it gives them just one second to think of what [veterans] go through, it's good."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There are five Park/Ride lots along the Orange Line for easy access from anywhere in the Valley. Leave your car behind and travel between any of the line's 13 stations. Or connect with Metro Rail at the North Hollywood station and go to Downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, Long Beach and dozens of points in between.
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Service runs every 6-10 minutes during rush hour and every 10-20 minutes at other times. Hours: approximately 4 am–1 am weekdays and 5 am–midnight weekends.
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Van Nuys
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Valley College
Laurel Canyon
North Hollywood
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Free Parking
Metro Red Line
Universal City
Metro
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VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Nov. 16

John Heffron
Irvine Improv
8:30 p.m.
(949) 854-5455

Thursday, Nov. 17

Joel John Roberts
Dutton's Books
7 p.m.
Free
(310) 281-0997

Friday, Nov. 18

Movie Releases:
"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (PG-13)
"Walk the Line" (PG-13)

Saturday, Nov. 19

Using Thematic Units: An Integrated Approach to Early Childhood Curriculum
Math-Science Building, Room 114
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
(818) 947-2407

Simple Plan
Gibson Ampitheatre
7:30 p.m.
$27.50
(818) 622-4440

Sunday, Nov. 20

Bark!
Coast Playhouse
3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
$45
(800) 595-4849

Monday, Nov. 21

Broadcast
Troubadour
9 p.m.
(310) 276-6168

Tuesday, Nov. 22

DVD Releases:
"The Polar Express" (G)
"War of the Worlds" (PG-13)

Think Transfer

Wednesday, Nov. 16

USC admissions workshop
1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. in FL 102

CSUN representative
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 17

Undecided on a major or career workshop
1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 21

Pepperdine Business representative
4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

UCLA applications workshop
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 22

UC applications workshop
1 p.m.

CSU applications workshop
5:30 p.m.

CSULA representative
4 p.m.-7 p.m.

For more information contact the Career Transfer Center in Administration 126 or at (818) 947-2646

Extension Courses Offer Opportunity

BY HOLLY DARE
COPY EDITOR

Valley College's Community Extension program is one of the most unusual in the Los Angeles Community College District. The program offers stand-alone certificate-based programs to train people in such high-demand career paths as paralegal, legal secretary, human resource assistant, commercial photographer and tax preparer. Students earn a certificate in their chosen field without having to take mandatory college classes as in other programs.

The program is celebrating its 10th anniversary and, unlike other segments of the community college district, enrollment is higher than ever. A self-supporting enterprise, the extension also offers more than 320 online courses and 200 personal development courses on the Valley campus. The cream of this crop of offerings is the unique design of certificate programs in which 25 lucky students go to the same classroom and their curriculum and instructors change periodically. When one subject is completed, a new instructor takes over. To earn their respective certificates, this group must complete between 115 and 400 classroom hours.

"I doubled my salary within a year," said Christine McCain, who completed her paralegal training in 1998. She works as an office manager at a law firm and has returned to the program to teach.

This type of structure allows students to focus on the task at hand. It also allows Annie G. Reed, dean of extension and outreach to easily make changes.

"We keep developing and improving it," said G. Reed. "The beauty of [the program] being not-for-credit is that I have more freedom to hire working professionals. I have judges and attorneys that teach for us."

G. Reed has been instrumental in implementing the certificate programs. In 1995, she was a paralegal instructor at Merit College in Van Nuys. The school went bankrupt and 100 teachers and 600 students were without jobs and training. She approached Valley's Dennis Reed, currently dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts – and newly married to G. Reed – and convinced him to start a paralegal program that summer to help a few of the Merit students who were close to certificate completion. That summer 23 students finished their studies and Valley's extension was off to a roaring start.

"Valley had tried to launch extension programs in the past and failed," said Reed.

MELANIE SALDAÑA / VALLEY STAR

GAY 90s - Nonagenarian, Hazel Warrner, is surrounded by well-wishers during her birthday celebration Wednesday, Nov. 9.

The Golden Years at Valley

BY ZABIE MANSOORY AND LAGINA PHILLIPS
STAFF WRITERS

Valley College's North Gym was host to a very exclusive birthday party last week

More than 40 students and instructors, Valley President Tyree Wieder and three other students were on the guest list.

Among those present were Valley students Sylvia Aleerman, 93, Gabrielle Bril, 92, and Mary Bullard, 90.

In came the birthday girl, Hazel Warner, 90 years young, still attending fitness classes at Valley and more vibrant than ever.

"I got my A.A. here at Valley about 100 years ago," said Warner, who was one of Valley's first students. "But lately, I have been only taking art, aerobics and fitness classes here."

Slacker or not, Warner is among four Valley students over 90 who have been coming to the Fitness Center for at least 25 years.

"I will ask my office to make a special certificate for all of you," said Wieder, whose office is in the process of creating certificates for all the students who have been attending fitness classes for at least 15 years.

"I love this place," said Aleerman, who has been taking classes at Valley for more than 28 years. "The fitness center is the best place on campus if you like to live a healthy life."

If these ladies don't inspire you to hit the gym then nothing will.

ALBUM REVIEW

Judy! Judy! Judy! Six Eyes Are Better Than One

"Judy at Carnegie Hall"
Band: Six Eye Columbia
Label: Roosevelt Franklin Records
★★★★ out of 5

COURTESY OF SIX EYE COLUMBIA

BY JESUS ESQUIVEL
STAFF WRITER

"Judy At Carnegie Hall" by Six Eye Columbia can be classified as indie-rock, but their musical diversity breaks away from the genre commonly associated with power-chords and whiny breakup lyrics.

It is the band's follow-up to their simultaneous 2001 debut albums "A Million Six" and vinyl-only covers exclusive "Frowny Frown" (covers-only vinyl exclusive).

The first track, "15, Like Raindrops" greets us with quick zigzag notes from violins. Then drums march to a common-time rock beat with an all-treble-no-bass texture. The guitar plays a catchy high-end lullaby riff that sounds like it's coming from a vintage radio.

Distorted vocals sing, "I know it's not to your liking but it's all I can do right now." A quick pause, then the bass kicks in and all the instruments are clean and crisp.

This music comes from mature musicians that aren't in it for the money or fame. Their tracks vary from inoffensive radio-friendly tunes to straight rock and even gloomy vocal-based bayou blues.

"New Age Teen" starts off with a punchy, hard-rocking, Queens of the Stone Age-type sound, then calms downs to tell us, "The sun up high will refuse to shine." It develops into slow rock and builds up to an 11-minute bass-driven gospel epic.

The next song, "She's Crying Diamonds," slows everything down. The track is the epitome of a less-is-more style that spotlights singer-songwriter Josh Pollock's tender lyrics about his inability to see his lover's tears.

Band Members Dan Bruno, Josh Pollock and Jerry Vessel all contributed various instruments to the recording. While friends Jason Lakis, Dave Malloy and Phil Worman add life and splendor to the eight-song album with cello, pedal steel, harmonicas and vocals.

If anything, Six Eye Columbia is a progressive rock band with a dynamic, touching repertoire. The songs exhibit a craft similar to The Flaming Lips, or a less poppy Modest Mouse or My Morning Jacket.

With so many bands out there playing the same rock songs, it's nice to hear a group with more diversity than a four power-chord rock band.

Six Eye Columbia has three songs from "Judy At Carnegie Hall" available at www.sixeyecolumbia.com. You can buy the CD at www.musicbaby.com or Amoeba Music.

More CDs Worth Spinning:

Another not-so-popular album to look out for is **Horse The Band**'s September sophomore release, "The Mechanical Hand." It's hardcore rock that uses synthesizers prominently. It's an interesting and new combination of crunchy guitar, explosive vocals and keyboards. The 80s had guitars and synthesizers, but Horse The Band has psychotically intense vocals.

Existing on a different realm is the September speak-easy release of **Iron Wine**'s collaboration with **Calexico**. "In The Reins w | Calexico" is an acoustic folk-rock album with soothing guitars and moving vocals. "Dead Man's Will," is a chilling reminder of mortality, reminiscent of Bob Dylan's "Knocking on Heaven's Door."

Just remember that there's a lot of good music out there, just because it's not on the radio every 20 minutes doesn't mean it isn't good. Herman Mellville's work wasn't popular until after he had died.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

AN INSURER'S NIGHTMARE? - Talented Hollywood bad boys Val Kilmer and Robert Downey Jr. team up in Shane Black's "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang."

MOVIE REVIEW

A "Bang"-Up Black Comedy

"Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang"
Director: Shane Black
Features: Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer
★★★ out of 5

BY LAGINA PHILLIPS
ONLINE EDITOR

In a year of remakes and sequels it's refreshing to see a film that boldy mixes a variety of eras and genres and has saucy fun with it. A 1940s detective flick throwback with touches of '60s James Bond movies and set in present-day Los Angeles, "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang" pays tribute to the genre while incorporating slapstick humor and self-aware, film-savvy dialogue.

First-time director Shane Black, who helped start the genre of violent, buddy, cop comedies with rude, funny languauge when he wrote "Lethal Weapon," doesn't venture too far from his comfort zone.

He mixes a murder mystery storyline and plenty of flashy gun action with no-bars-held comedy.

The best on-screen duo in the genre since "Weapon's" Mel Gibson and Danny Glover, Downey and Val Kilmer's witty banter keeps the film fresh. Harry (Downey), a thief posing as an actor acting as a detective, gets mixed up in a series of murders while preparing for his screen test with the help of "Gay Perry" (Kilmer), a private investigator.

While interrogating one of the bad guys, Perry tells him "This isn't good cop, bad cop. This is fag and New Yorker," which sums up the duo's chemistry throughout the film.

Harry's jaded, smartaleck narration is like a film buff's guide to the movie's plot as it parallels clichés from pulp fiction, a recurring theme.

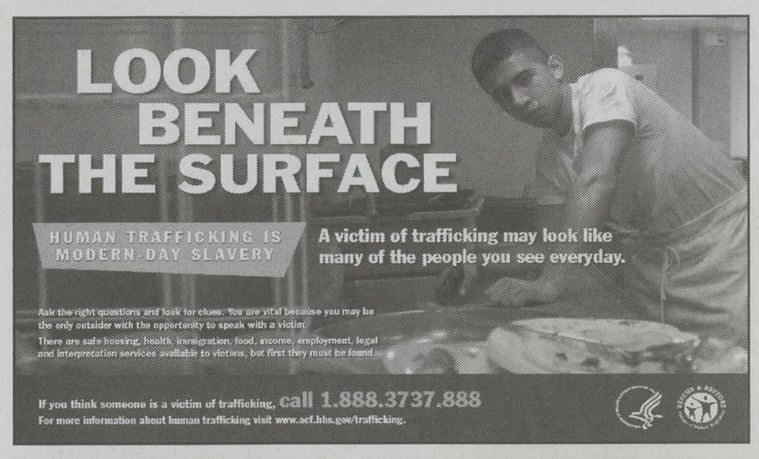
One of Harry's favorite detective novels comes to life as the bumbling actor tries his best at cool-guy detective work.

The film's title, a reference to a nickname given to James Bond by adoring Japanese fans, sets the tone for the film.

At its core, the film is a detective flick with plenty of shoot-'em-up action, but Harry's narration doesn't let the film take itself too seriously for too long.

Downey delivers an ace performance as the criminal-slash-actor-slash-detective. Kilmer is solid and funny as the pro who plays for the other team. The film delights in playing out clichés and turning them on their heads.

As Harry says, "Don't worry, I saw 'Lord of the Rings.' I'm not going to end this 17 times."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SPORTS

LAVC SCORES

M. Water Polo vs. Cuesta
(L 13-11) 11/11/05

Soccer vs. Santa Monica College
(L 5-0) 11/14/05

Football vs. College of Canyons
(L 51-0) 11/10/05

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 11/16/05
M.Basketball @ San Diego City College
7:30 p.m.

Thursday 11/17/05
W. Basketball @ Compton College 5:30 p.m.

Friday 11/18/05
M. Water Polo @ State Champinship
All day
M.Basketball @ Fullerton Classic TBA

Saturday 11/19/05
M.Basketball @ Fullerton Classic TBA
W.Basketball @ Palomar College
5:30 p.m.
M. Water Polo @ State Champinship
All day

Sunday 11/20/05
M.Basketball @ Fullerton Classic TBA

Monday 11/21/05
No Scheduled Games

Tuesday 11/22/05
Basketball vs. Allan Hancock College
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday 11/23/05
No Scheduled Games

Thursday 11/24/05
No Scheduled Games

PRO SCHEDULE

NBA

11/16/05

LA Lakers vs. New York
7:30 p.m. ESPN

Seattle @ Boston
4:30 p.m. FxSS

Philadelphia @ Toronto
4 p.m. CSNT

Indiana @ Charlotte
4:30 p.m. WTTV

Memphis @ Phoenix
6 p.m. FXAZ

Chicago @ Portland
7 p.m. CSNC

Milwaukee @ Golden State
7:30 p.m. FXNO

NFL

11/20/05

Arizona @ St. Louis
11 a.m.

Carolina @ Chicago
11 a.m.

Jacksonville @ Tennessee
11 a.m.

Miami @ Cleveland
11 a.m.

Oakland @ Washington
11 a.m.

Philadelphia @ N.Y. Giants
11 a.m.

Pittsburgh @ Baltimore
11 a.m.

Tampa Bay @ Atlanta

11 a.m.

Kansas City @ San Francisco
1 p.m.

Buffalo @ San Diego
1:15 p.m.

For more sport photos and stories, please visit www.lavalleystar.com

FOOTBALL

No.1 Ranked Cougars Too Much for Monarchs

BY NICK SANTONI
STAFF WRITER

■ 51-0 trouncing to end season exposes team's youth, and long road ahead.

They were too big, too strong and too good. The College of the Canyons' football team proved why it's the number-one ranked team in California and why they have hung six-straight Western State Conference title banners at Cougar Stadium. Valley College proved just how far the team is from contending for that title.

The Cougars defeated the Monarchs 51-0 in the team's final game of the season on Saturday. The Cougars earned their 24th consecutive victory to date, a streak that dates back to the end of the 2003 season. The Monarchs finished the season 2-8.

"They showed why they're the champs," said Monarch head coach Jimmy Sims. "I tip my hat to the Cougars' coaching staff. They were well prepared and demonstrated why they've gotten to the level they have."

The Monarch defense came out aggressive, putting pressure on starting quarterback Marcel Marquez. Defensive backs Kirifi Ofagalilo and John Fonua, and lineman Aaron Nevels led the charge, holding the Cougars to one offensive first-quarter score—a 28-yard field goal by place-kicker Jonathan Johnson. It would be Valley's only highlight of the evening. The field goal and a special team's touchdown made the score 10-0 at the end of the first.

The Cougars' defense made itself known early. Valley quarterback Corey Jones was picked-off on his fourth passing attempt by linebacker Shiaphan Lewis for a 16-yard touchdown. Monarch quarterbacks completed 7 of 38 passes for a meager 38 yards and were sacked five times.

Meanwhile, the Monarch defense would grow weary, and Marquez would begin to exhibit why he was named conference player-of-the-month for October. Marquez finished with 222 yards passing and two touchdowns—the first a 26-yard pass to running back Sean Edwards, and the second, a 37–yard pass to wide-receiver Terrence Scott.

The Cougar running game was also effective. Three Cougars combined for 201 yards on the ground.

"We just didn't show up tonight," said Monarch wide-receiver Antoine Palmer. "We didn't perform, so we got beat. It's that simple. We weren't concerned about their record, their [win] streak, the ranking. We just wanted to go out there and compete, but we couldn't step it up."

The cougars finished the game with 419 total offensive yards with an average of 6.5 yards per play. The Monarchs could only compile 27 yards total, with an average of a half yard per play.

"It's time to lift hard, run, and keep the focus," said defensive captain Bryant Barrientos on his plans for the off season. "We're going to keep the chemistry together, and with more experience we should be a much better football team next year.

DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

COUGARS ATTACK - Valley freshman quarterback Troy Jackson is mauled by a pack of Cougars in the team's last game of the season, losing 51-0 to College of Canyons.

Water Polo Sinks at So Cal

BY CHRIS GARCIA
STAFF WRITER

Fifth-ranked Grossmont College squeaked by ninth-ranked Valley College Friday, eliminating the Monarchs from the Southern California Championships, 11-9, in an extremely competitive game at San Diego State University.

The Monarchs and the Griffins exchanged scores throughout the first period, which ended in a 4-3 advantage for Grossmont.

Grossmont's John Lackey led the way by scoring the majority of the goals against the Monarchs. As the second period started, Lackey took control of the game as he scored three unanswered goals as Valley struggled.

Valley head coach Jim McMillan called for a time-out to try and settle his team down.

Coming out of the time-out, the Monarchs evened the score at six, but the Griffins snuck in two quick scores, to end the second period with an 8-6 lead.

The Griffin bench sounded confident as players discussed whether to run the clock or blow out the Monarchs. They decided to go for the blowout.

The Monarchs had something else in mind as they outscored the Griffins in the third period, 3-1, as Mark Hicks, Allen Manjarrez and Nestor Dordoni each contributed a goal to end the period at a 9-9 tie.

"I expected it to be a tough game, but I did not expect the game to have as many scores as it did," said Dordoni.

Both teams buckled down as they faced elimination. The first four-and-a-half minutes went by without a score. Grossmont utility player Karl Maes struck first to give his team a one-goal lead.

But the Monarchs weren't about to give up – Dordoni tied the game with a bullet shot from the right-hand side of the pool.

After Manjarrez gave Valley the lead with only 2:23 left in the game, the Valley bench was screaming "Defense!"

But Grossmont came back by forcing Valley into turnovers and shutting them out in the final minutes. Grossmont's three unanswered goals gave the Griffins enough to squeak by 13-11.

"The team played great, they were under-manned and they fought until the final buzzer," said McMillan, reffering to star player Billy Bracy, who was suspended for the game.

SOCCER

DAN VILLASENOR / VALLEY STAR

ON THE RUN - Freshman captain Michelle Escamilla out runs Glendale Vaqueros defender during their last home game Friday.

Season Ends in a Fog

BY ZABIE MANSOORY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

■ The Lady Monarchs end their season with a foggy game, losing 5-0 to Santa Monica.

In "The Fog," marauding pirates wreak gory havoc on unsuspecting victims. In "The Lady Monarchs' Final Game," it was a horde of Corsairs doing the damage in Santa Monica, slashing their way to a 5-0 season-ending horror show Tuesday.

"I couldn't see anything in the fog," said freshman goalkeeper Rosa Ramy. "I think we need to learn how to play as a team more and attack the ball more often than we have been."

The Monarchs finished the season with a 5-16-1 record and ninth place in the Western State Conference. The team seemed to be playing without a rudder on offence against the Corsairs.

"I am pretty disappointed at the way we played today knowing this was my last game at Valley," said sophomore Jessie Paul, who was one of the few stars of this season. "Although we didn't do as good as we wanted to this season, I had real good time playing with this group of girls."

The Corsairs netted their first goal at the 10-minute mark of the first quarter and scored three times before the break.

"We didn't execute our game plan," head coach Eric Archilla said. "We weren't shooting the ball as we were supposed to."

Although players didn't have much success this season due to inexperience and injuries, the coach hopes things turn around next year.

"I am looking at a group of very good recruits coming in next season," Archilla said. "We should have a very good team with the help of our freshmen from this season."

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